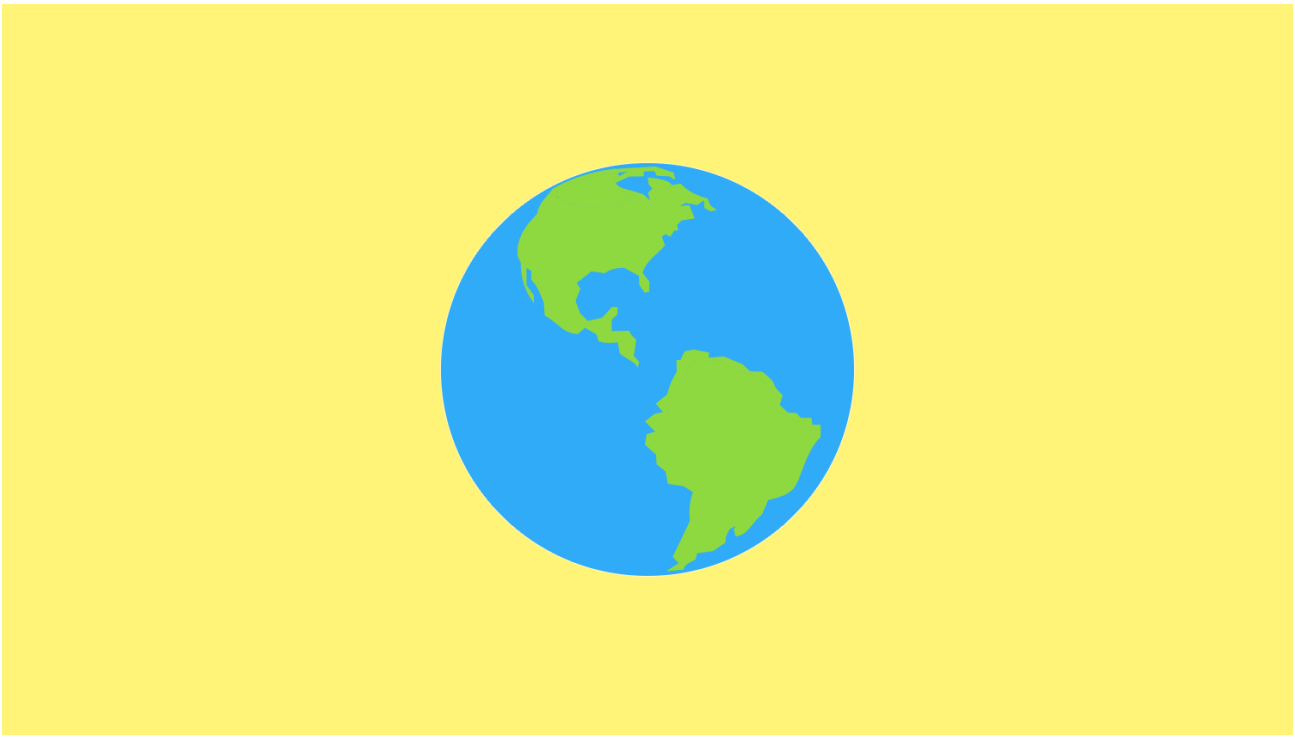
28 Things You Must Do When You Visit NYC

There's almost too much to do in the city that never sleeps, so we figured a handy guide could help you from getting overwhelmed (or giving up and settling for the Applebee's in Times Square). Here, a mix of worth-it touristy spots and locals-approved activities.



- [ ] 1. **Visit at least one of the iconic art museums:**The MoMA, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Guggenheim and the Whitney.
- [ ] 2. **And eat at one of the iconic food institutions:**Katz's Delicatessen, Carnegie Deli, Delmonico's Bar & Grill, Forlini's or 21 Club.
- [ ] 3. **Stand under the constellation ceiling mural** at Grand Central Terminal and marvel at how quiet the place is.
- [ ] 4. Then head uptown and **stand under the giant blue whale** at the American Museum of Natural History and marvel at how gigantic the thing is.
- [ ] 5. While you're up there, **eat a hot-out-of-the-oven cookie from Levain Bakery** (hands down the best in the city).
- [ ] 6. **Then do a loop in Central Park** Your best bet for not getting totally lost: download the guided app.
- [ ] 7. **Rent a Citi Bike** and ride it along Hudson River Park for fabulous views.
- [ ] 8. **Take a stroll on the High Line**, which is a lush park built on an abandoned elevated railroad track in the old Meatpacking District.
- [ ] 9. **Sample a New York slice.** (Or two. Or five.) A few of our favorite places: Lombardi's in Little Italy, Patsy's in Harlem and Di Fara Pizza in Brooklyn.
- [ ] 10. **Take yet another stroll** (we do that a lot here) across the Brooklyn Bridge. There will be even more pizza waiting for you on the other side.
- [ ] 11. **Ride the subway**. We know it's confusing and smells funny, but you can take it to some pretty cool places (like all the way to the end to Coney Island for a ride on the 100-year-old Wonder Wheel).
- [ ] 12. Now that you've earned your subway cred, **check out the Transit Museum** and see how the whole infrastructure was

built.

- [ ] 13. **Get lost in the West Village** along the quaint, tiny streets that don't follow the grid.
- [ ] 14. **Ask a New Yorker for directions**. Believe it or not, they'll probably be friendly--and have a lot of opinions about the best way to get wherever you're going.
- [ ] 15. **Visit the 9/11 Memorial**. Yes, it's really worth the crowds.
- [ ] 16. **See a Broadway show**. Yes, it's really worth the money.
- [ ] 17. **Stay up late for Rock 'N' Roll Karaoke** (with a live band) at Arlene's Grocery on the Lower East Side.
- [ ] 18. **Then sample cheese pierogies at Veselka** in the East Village at 3 a.m. (or anytime--the Ukranian restaurant is open 24 hours).
- [ ] 19. **Ride a loop on the Staten Island Ferry**. You'll get perfect views of the Statue of Liberty, and best of all, it's free.
- [ ] 20. **Do a real New York brunch at 2 p.m.,** complete with Bloody Marys and mimosas. We're partial to Jacob's Pickles on the Upper West Side and Russ & Daughters Café on the Lower East Side.
- [ ] 21. If you can't swing a whole brunch, at the very least **get a bagel**, anywhere. On top? Preferably lox and a shmear.
- [ ] 22. **See a jazz band** at Smalls in the West Village--or combine two items on your list and try a jazz brunch.
- [ ] 23. Be a little cheesy and **visit a spot made famous by a movie or TV show**, like Tom's Restaurant (Seinfeld), Magnolia Bakery (Sex and the City) or the Empire Hotel (Gossip Girl).
- [ ] 24. **Take at least one lap around the legendary Bergdorf Goodman** on Fifth Avenue.
- [ ] 25. Set aside an afternoon to **kick back and relax at Spa Castle**. It's basically the Disney World of spas.
- [ ] 26. **Track down a hidden speakeasy like The Garret**, tucked away above a Five Guys in the West Village.
- [ ] 27. **See a legit comedy show at the Comedy Cellar**. (The likes of Louis C.K. and Amy Schumer are known to drop in unexpectedly.) Just stay away from those guys hawking tickets in Times Square.
- [ ] 28. But of course, **do go to Times Square**. Get in, snap a pic (no, not with an off-brand Elmo) and get out. You've got a ton more of the city to see.

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